

# GILLIAN CONDY

## WORKSHOP:

# THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE DRAWING

Starting with a few PowerPoint slides, Gillian will show you how she starts a drawing, directly on to her watercolour paper, with lightly sketching in the subject, mapping in the composition, placement, and correct proportions. She will then demonstrate how to accurately measure against the plant. Coming from a scientific background, Gillian is a huge advocate for precision drawing to start any artwork.

## MATERIALS LIST:

Students should bring:

- » ½ sheet cartridge paper or watercolour paper
- » B or 2B pencil, 2H pencil
- » Retractable craft knife, sandpaper block or old emery board
- » Dividers
- » Putty eraser
- » Plant material





GILLIAN CONDY

Pretoria, South Africa

## BIO:

Gillian was born in Kenya and attended primary school in Uganda before her parents returned to the UK where she completed her schooling. She studied Scientific Illustration at Middlesex Polytechnique in London, before her Master's at the Royal College of Art.

She returned to Africa, spending four wonderful years in Botswana before taking up a dream job as Resident Botanical Artist at the National Herbarium in Pretoria, South Africa. Her first three-year contract extended to just short of 35 years, until her retirement in 2017.

During those years, she was an active freelance artist and started teaching for the Institute, as well as for BAASA and at the Cavern Berg in the Drakensberg. She produced 14 sets of stamps for Botswana and three for South Africa and illustrated several books. She has exhibited extensively including the Hunt Institute in 1992, in the late 90's won 7 gold and three Silver-gilt in RHS group exhibits, four gold and three silver at the Kirstenbosch Biennale Exhibitions. She was awarded the Jill Symthies medal in 1990, 2001 the Cythna Letty Medal from the Botanical Society of SA, 2018 the Certificate of Merit from the South African Association of Botanists. Gillian has five paintings in the Shirley Sherwood collection. She has participated in the Highgrove, Transylvanian, 2 x Sydney Botanical Garden and Grootbos Florilegia. She is one of the founding, and Life member, of the *Botanical Artist Association of Southern Africa* and still sits on the Gauteng committee.

Soon after retirement, she was one of the curators of the South African leg of Botanical Art Worldwide Exhibition and accepted an Artist in Residence position at the Tswalu Kalahari Private Nature Reserve, which resulted in a solo exhibition. She is currently busy with her second Tswalu project, *Butterflies and their host plants*. She still illustrates for *Flowering Plants of Africa*, a SANBI publication.